

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF MAY 1ST, 1935.

The Board of Public Works met in the offices of the Governor, Union Trust Building, Baltimore, on Wednesday, May 1st, 1935, at three o'clock P.M.

Present:-

Harry W. Nice, Governor.
Wm. S. Gordy, Jr., Comptroller.
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer.

The Board met for the purpose of considering proposals for alterations to the Court of Appeals Building at Annapolis, Maryland, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Henry Powell Hopkins, Architect, and for which there is included in the General Bond Issue of 1933 an appropriation of \$40,000.00 to take care of the cost of the work. The bids were read and tabulated and it was ascertained that Samuel B. Dove, Annapolis, Maryland, submitted the lowest bid for the work. Mr. Dove's base bid was \$25,807.00. Alternate No. 1 called for an additional sum of \$15,525.00; Alternate No. 2 for an additional sum of \$16,366; Alternate No. 3 for an additional sum of \$298.00; Alternate No. 4 for an additional sum of \$675.00, with time for completion stated as three months.

After due consideration the Board decided to accept the proposal submitted by Mr. Dove, - accepting the base bid of \$25,807.00, Alternate No. 2 of \$16,366.00, Alternate No. 3 of \$298.00, Alternate No. 4 of \$675.00. The Architect was instructed to proceed with the preparation of the usual contract for the carrying out of the work, and for the filing of bond by Mr. Dove.

Mr. Dove has agreed to have incorporated in the agreement a provision that if his cost for doing the work, plus an additional sum of 10% would result in an amount less than the sum of the base bid and the Alternates accepted, the State would be entitled to the saving.

The Board approved the transfer from the Emergency Reserve Fund of \$6,000.00 to take care of the difference between the amount of Mr. Dove's bid, Architect's fees and incidental expenses in connection with the carrying out of the work, and the sum of \$40,000.00 appropriated in the General Bond Issue of 1933 for payment for the work.

5-1-35

The Board considered a request from Doctor Victor F. Cullen, Superintendent, Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium, for an allotment of \$10,000.00 from the Emergency Reserve Fund to cover the estimated deficit in the operating account of the several Sanatoria.

After due consideration the Board approved the request and authorized the Comptroller to make the necessary transfer.

Dr. A. J. Lomas, Superintendent, University Hospital, Baltimore and Mr. H. C. Byrd, Vice-President of the University of Maryland, appeared before the Board and urgently requested that \$30,000.00 be transferred from the Emergency Reserve Fund to the University Hospital Operating Account to take care of an estimated deficit in the operations of the Hospital in the current fiscal year because of additional expense involved in operating the new and larger Hospital.

After due consideration the Board authorized the Comptroller to transfer \$30,000.00 from the Emergency Reserve Fund to the University Hospital Account for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1935.

Mr. Clyde N. Friz, Architect, appeared before the Board at the request of the Governor and explained plans which he has prepared for remodeling the Executive Mansion at Annapolis. Mr. Friz and the Governor explained the revised plans for the work calling for a new wing on either side of the building instead of one wing on the one side of the building, as shown in a tentative plan submitted heretofore. Mr. Friz and the Governor explained very carefully and thoroughly what was proposed to be done, and it was estimated that it would be necessary to increase the amount of money available for payment for the work by approximately \$22,000.00, and at the request of the Governor the Board authorized the transfer of \$22,000.00, in the fiscal year 1935, for the purchase of equipment for the remodeled Mansion, from the Emergency Reserve Fund, to supplement the amounts already available to the Governor in the Budget.

Mr. Miles, State Treasurer, stated that his offices at 1009 Union Trust Building, were not adequately furnished, because of the fact that most of the furniture which had been in the office when Mr. Dennis was State Treasurer belonged to the Union Trust Company, or to Mr. Dennis, and that such furniture not belonging to the State had been removed by the owners.

Mr. Miles was authorized to purchase suitable furniture for the offices, and to arrange for payment for it out of the account of the Board of Public Works.

The Governor stated that Dr. George H. Preston, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, wanted to take up with the Board the question of plans for additions and improvements at State Institutions.

The Board agreed to meet on Wednesday, May 8th, at three o'clock, P.M., in the offices of the Governor in the Union Trust Building, for the purpose of discussing this matter with Doctor Preston, and such of his associates as wanted to appear before the Board.

The Secretary was instructed to advise Doctor Preston accordingly.

The following letter from the Superintendent of Education of Anne Arundel County, was read and considered -

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY

Annapolis, Md.
April 22, 1935.

Board of Public Works,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Gentlemen:-

The Board of Education at the meeting on Wednesday, April seventeenth, directed me to write you in reference to the very dangerous crossing at Harman's Station.

State Roads

While there are gates at this crossing and our buses do come to a full stop, it is very difficult to see either way. Several bus loads of high school children must cross this crossing twice a day.

The Board of Education recommends that if there is any money available, this crossing be eliminated as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours.

/s/ George Fox.
George Fox
County Superintendent.

CF:KM

The Secretary was instructed to refer the matter to the State Roads Commission for its consideration.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the fact that several Superintendents of Boards of Education of the Counties had written letters wanting to know what the Board of Public Works would do by way of making allotments to the Counties out of the Emergency Reserve Fund to supplement the Equalization Fund, in which these Counties would share in the next two fiscal years.

The Board deferred action in the matter until a later date.

The following letter from Senator J. Allan Coad, was read and considered -

SENATE OF MARYLAND
Annapolis, Md.

4-17-35

Mr. Jos O. McCusker,
Chief Deputy,
Comptrollers Office,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Mr. McCusker:-

I have interviewed Mr. Lancaster regarding amount due him for services at St. Mary's City as custodian of the State House there.

He is hard to deal with. Hence I suggested that he work out the matter himself with you.

As I see it after talking with Bennett Darnall, Chairman of the old Tercentenary Commission, he is entitled to \$187.50 at the rate of \$75.00 per month from October 1st '34 to December 15th, '34. This was the salary he was engaged at. For special services he rendered in connection with Maryland Day services this year, (at which time there were a number of visitors) I think the sum of \$10.00 sufficient and he agrees to that. This, of course, makes a total of \$197.50 and beyond this I make no recommendation.

He seems to think that he is entitled to something for services voluntarily performed during the winter months (from Dec 15th on) though he was informed by Mr. Randall, Secretary of the short lived Commission appointed by Governor Ritchie, that any service rendered after Dec 15th (34) would be at his own risk entirely. I do not see that the State is obligated to him beyond the amount named of \$197.50. Of course if you feel that you want to allow something for the services which as I have said were entirely voluntary on his part it is O K with me.

The Md. Day service, I myself authorized as I knew there would be visitors at that time and felt that the State House should be opened for them. I shall consider that my obligation, unless the State sees fit to assume it.

Mr. Lancaster is a fine fellow and thoroughly sincere, but I feel slightly unreasonable in some of his claims, as after all he was very well paid at \$75.00 per month for his work.

I leave the matter in his hands as he seems to wish it so.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Allan Coad.

After due consideration the Board agreed to reimburse Mr. Lancaster in the amount of \$197.50, as outlined in Senator Coad's letter.

The following letter from the Baltimore-Maryland Coal Exchange, Inc., was read and considered -

BALTIMORE-MARYLAND COAL EXCHANGE, INC.

20-24 LIGHT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD.

April 19, 1935.

Governor Harry W. Nice,
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Governor Nice:-

I am very loathe to bring this controversial matter of the Myrtle Avenue Hay Scale to your attention. I feel it should and could have been adjusted without involving the Chief Executive of our State.

In order that you may be familiar with this subject I am sending you herewith my complete file. After you look over this correspondence I am sure you will agree with us that these scales are unfit for use in weighing commodities loaded on automobile trucks and that their use should be discontinued forthwith. I do not believe that such action on the part of any coal dealer in the City of Baltimore would be condoned for one minute and we cannot understand why the use of these scales is permitted by the State. Everyone connected with their use knows that a correct weight cannot be determined on them.

I have secured a certified copy of the inspection and disapproval of these scales by the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Standards, dated February 25, 1935, which I am enclosing herewith. Notwithstanding this disapproval these scales are being used every day for the weighing of bootleg coal and any other commodity that is pulled on the scale to be weighed.

Won't you, on behalf of the retail coal dealers in this City and in justice to the consuming public, see that the use of these scales are discontinued and thus avoid the possibility of any further embarrassment by their use? I think you will agree that we have been very patient in this matter as it will be four years next September since we first took it up with the Office of the Comptroller at Annapolis, Maryland,

Thanking you in advance for your assistance in getting this matter straightened out and hoping that we may be advised as to what action will be taken to correct this evil, I am

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. F. Palmer

Executive Secretary.

JFP:M-

It was explained by the Secretary that negotiations were pending for the sale of the property and that a sale would eliminate any further possibility of criticism or complaint from the Baltimore-Maryland Coal Exchange, Inc. The Secretary explained that there was no authority vested in any one at the present time to operate the scales in the name of the State, because of the fact that the Act of the General Assembly of 1933 authorizing the Board of Public Works to sell the scales property also repealed the Act relating to the appointment of an Inspector.

The Secretary was directed to notify any one holding forth at the scales that they were without authority to use the scales in any manner, or to operate them, and to advise them that they should discontinue any activity at the premises.

Scales

The Secretary advised of receipt of a letter from the office of The Johns Hopkins Hospital, calling attention to some property which the Hospital owns in Baltimore which it is desirous of renting to the State for official uses.

The Secretary was instructed to reply to the letter and state that at the present time the Board was not in position to take the matter up, but that any correspondence would be placed on file for future consideration.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board some correspondence relative to salary of Mr. Hazelton A. Joyce, Jr., Deputy Insurance Commissioner. The correspondence concerned the salary of Mr. Joyce and a prospective reduction in the salary contemplated in the Budgets for the fiscal years 1936 and 1937.

The Board deferred action in the matter until the occasion of giving the various State Budgets for the fiscal years 1936 and 1937 consideration prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year on October 1st, 1935.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to it by Mr. C. W. Perkins, Secretary, Board of Managers, Maryland Training School for Boys, relative to the appropriation to the Institution for the fiscal year ended September 30th, 1935, the School claiming that the appropriation for the year is inadequate and that it is necessary that additional funds be placed at the disposal of the Institution in order that it may continue to satisfactorily operate until the end of the year.

The Board requested the Secretary to refer the matter to Mr. Walter N. Kirkman, for his consideration and report.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a copy of Minutes of meeting of the Board of the Eastern Shore State Hospital on April 5th, 1935. The Minutes contained considerable reference to the question of the construction of a sewage disposal plant for the Town of Cambridge.

The Board deferred action on the matter until a later meeting.

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The following letter from the American Estimating Company, Baltimore, Maryland, was read and considered -

AMERICAN ESTIMATING COMPANY
5 Guilford Ave.
Baltimore, Md.

April 30, 1935.

Hon Harry Nice,
Governor of Maryland.

Dear Sir:-

Will you kindly save us the expense and delay of litigation, by ordering payment made to us on the enclosed account, in connection with a contract for the State of Maryland.

The service is covered by an agreement in writing to the extent of \$550.00 for our contingent fee, copy of which is herewith enclosed.

Furthermore our services are subject to the Conditions on the reverse side of our letter paper. In this case Condition No. 12 specifies that in case the contractor fails to make payment when due, that payment will then be made by the owner and charged to the account of the contractor.

We therefore ask that payment be made directly to us by the State, and charged back to the account of the contractor, according to agreement.

We have credited the payments received from the contractors, to the period from November 21 to December 31, 1934, and are now seeking payment on our original contingent fee. And regardless of how these payments are credited, there is still a balance of \$575.00 due to us, on which the contractors have refused payment.

Please accept our thanks for your interest in the matter.

Very truly,

American Estimating Company

The Board decided it inadvisable to enter into any controversy between the American Estimating Company and Carlson and Carlson, the latter contractors for the construction of a building at Crownsville State Hospital.

The following letter from William Martien & Company, Inc, was read and considered -

WM. MARTIEN & COMPANY, INC.

3200 Baltimore Trust Bldg.

Baltimore, Maryland.

April 25, 1935.

Mr. Joseph O'C. McCusker,
Office of Comptroller
Treasury Department,
Annapolis, Maryland.

5-1-35

Dear Mr. McCusker:

The present status of our negotiations for the Northwestern Hay Scales is as follows:

We have this morning received a cash offer from Bernard J. Kalus, the same man who has just purchased the Eastern Hay Scales, of \$1,800. Mr. Kalus was willing to put up a cash down payment but I did not care to accept such a payment, as I stated to him that I did not expect his offer would be acceptable to the State. Kalus is a cash purchaser and in the final analysis can probably be induced to pay around \$2,000.

Mr. Braun and Mr. Mermelstein who recently offered to lease the property for two years at the rate of \$20. a month with an option to purchase the property at any time during the term of the lease for \$2,500, apparently are unwilling to submit a proposition for a sale at this time. This is notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Mermelstein formerly offered \$2,500 for the property and subsequently refused to stand back of the proposition. In discussing this matter today with Mr. Braun he authorized me to say they are still willing to stand by their proposition to lease for two years at \$20.00 a month with the option to buy at \$2,500.

If the Board desires to dispose of the property at this time it can consider a cash sale to Kalus at \$1,800, which might possibly be increased to \$2,000, or the lease with Braun and Mermelstein.

Yours very truly,

/s/ J. A. Magee
J. A. Magee,
Secretary.

JAM/cf

In view of the complaints which have heretofore been made relative to the use of the scales for weighing coal, and the possibility of the continuance of these complaints if the State were to lease the scales to Messrs. Braun and Mermelstein, the Board decided it would be better to sell the scales out-right and authorized the Secretary to communicate with William Martien & Company, Inc., and advise them that the State will accept an offer of \$2,000. cash for the sale of the property.

The following letter from Spring Grove State Hospital was read and considered -

SPRING GROVE STATE HOSPITAL

April 24, 1935.

Board of Public Works,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Gentlemen:-

Your attention is invited to a condition at this Institution, which could be remedied at a cost of not over \$500.00. The improvement would result in a saving of at least that amount a year, and perhaps six or seven hundred dollars annually.

At the present time all the water used to cool the ammonia condensers connected with our refrigeration plant runs off after passing over the coils and is wasted. Our plan is to reclaim this water, and pump it back into the regular water supply for the Institution. We have a suitable tank on hand that would answer the purpose, but we would have to purchase a motor driven pump, and automatic switch and starter, and a few hundred feet of pipe. Prices obtained through the Central Purchasing Bureau indicate that the cost of the above equipment will not exceed \$500.00. The installation will be done by our own workmen. The tank will be used to receive the water after it passes over the coils, and the pump will force the water into our hot water storage tank, to which it will be carried through the pipe to be purchased for that purpose.

It is conservatively estimated that the cost of the wasted water is \$60.00 a month during the six summer months and \$20.00 per month during the winter months, a total of about \$500.00 a year.

Your advice is earnestly solicited in this matter. We feel that our restricted budget for this year will not permit of this major expenditure, and yet we are of the opinion that in the interest of economic operation for the future, the change should be made, and should be made at once, as the summer months during which the greatest saving would be realized, are at hand.

Therefore, your authority to make the necessary expenditure from our present budget is requested, with the understanding that, if there is an overexpenditure of our budget at the end of the year, it will be met out of funds at the disposal of your Board.

Very respectfully,

/s/ Robert E. Garrett,
Superintendent.

REG/RO

The Secretary was requested to refer the matter to Mr. Walter N. Kirkman for investigation and report.

The Secretary advised of the receipt of a letter from Mr. J. D. Blackwell, Principal, Maryland State Normal School, Salisbury, Maryland, with request for allotment from the Reserve Fund for the fiscal years 1936 and 1937 to supplement the Budget for the Salisbury Normal School for those years.

The Board deferred action on the request until later when similar requests from other State Departments will be considered.

The Secretary took up with the Board the question of the matter of a claim made by the Consolidated Engineering Company, Inc., in the amount of \$990.00, covering installing radiators for temporary heat at the Hall of Records in Annapolis during the construction of the building in the winter of 1934 and 1935. The Architect Mr. Laurence H. Fowler is of the opinion that the temporary heat should have been provided without extra cost. The contractors claim the specifications did not include the furnishing of the heat in the General Contract.

The Secretary was directed to refer the matter to the Attorney General for his opinion as to whether the work of providing temporary heat was included in the General Contract or whether the bill of the Consolidated Engineering Company for the cost of providing the heat is in order.

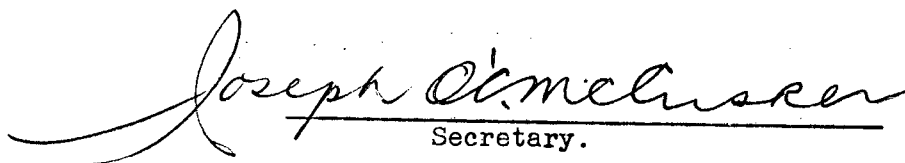
The Secretary took up with the Board some correspondence between Mr. John L. Dunkle, Principal, Frostburg State Normal School and the Board, relative to the action taken by the Board at its last meeting on the request of Mr. Dunkle for an allotment of \$1,733.00 from the Emergency Reserve Fund to be credited to the Budget Account of Frostburg Normal School.

The Board decided to correct an apparent error which was made at its last meeting in allowing the School but \$853.00 of the

\$1,733.00 requested. However, instead of allowing the difference of \$900.00, which was the amount originally requested for rent, the Board decided to allow the amount to which this item was reduced, or \$765.00.

Therefore, in addition to the \$833.00 allowed by the Board at its previous meeting the further sum of \$765.00 was allowed at today's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary.